



**Brandon M. Scott**  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

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**HB 945**

February 24, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President of the Baltimore City Council

**RE:** HOUSE BILL 945 – Criminal Procedure – Sentencing and Disposition –  
Community Impact Statement

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

I write to you in **support** of House Bill 945. This bill will allow for a community impacted by crime to submit a community impact statement during sentencing or disposition.

Crime does not just impact the one victim. It touches their family and friends and even the neighborhood residents of where the event took place. Without being addressed, these negative impacts can grow and prove detrimental to the community at large. Due to fear, increases in crime can greatly stress the social fabric of a community impacting property values, businesses in the neighborhood and the general quality of life.

Community impact statements recognize that the effects of crime are far-reaching. This is one step to address crime's communitywide impacts and limit its negative impact. Allowing communities to come forward and speak about how the crime has affected them is an important and powerful part of the sentencing or disposition process. It allows these greater wrongs to be voiced and for both victim and the court to fully recognize the long impact of a crime. Giving residents a say in the process helps restore community trust after a crime has occurred. These are important steps to healing communities and combating crime.

To begin the restoration of our community, legislation is need that empowers them in the judicial process. For this reason, I urge you to move for a **favorable** report on House Bill 945.